

Rumson Recreation Commission Minutes
January 15, 2014 Final

Chairman Lembeck called the meeting to order at 7.02pm.

Attendance

In attendance were Commission members Mr. Lembeck, Mr. Bavuso, Mr. Cecil, Ms. Chandler, Mr. Dengler, Ms. Greener, and Mr. McGinty. Councilman Mr. Ben Day and Recreation Director Ms. Sarah Orsay were also in attendance.

There were no members of the public present.

Chairman's Announcements

Mr. Lembeck welcomed new members Mike Cecil and Sharon Greener to the Commission. Mr. Cecil was appointed in December to Mr. McGillis's seat. Ms. Greener was appointed January 1, 2014, and takes over Alex Shanley's seat. Mr. Shanley retired when his term expired on December 31, 2013. Mr. Dengler was reappointed on January 1, 2014.

Mr. Lembeck updated the Commission on a possible lawsuit by a Fall 2013 Flag Football coach.

Mr. Lembeck announced there was no December 2013 Commission meeting due to lack of quorum. This year Recreation Commission meetings will take place on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM, with the exception of July and December in which there will be no meetings.

Approval of the Minutes

It was agreed to delay the approval of the November 2013 Minutes until the February 2014 meeting. There are no December 2013 Minutes as there was no meeting.

Directors Report

Parks:

Ms. Orsay is working in the field scheduling for the Spring season. The fields will open around mid-March, depending on weather.

Programs:

Basketball - Ms. Orsay noted that basketball season was underway and off to a great start. New this season, coaches were permitted and encouraged to pair up with an assistant coach before the draft. All coaches and assistant coaches were invited to a Saturday morning coaches' meeting at Forrestdale Cafeteria, with coffee and snacks, rather than a weeknight meeting. Ms. reviewed coaching certification requirements, code of conduct, rules, expectations, etc. The coaches then participated in a blind draft, which was seen as a more fair way to allocate teams. Ms. Orsay said the meeting and format were a success with about 95% participation of coaches and assistant coaches, as compared to 80% coaches (no assistant coaches) in past meetings.

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Also new this basketball season, Ms. Orsay switched from T-shirts with NBA teams to jerseys emblazoned with college team names. In the November meeting the Commissioners had felt that colleges were more inclusive of both genders. Coaches and participants have expressed great enthusiasm for this change.

For the first time this year Rec is offering a Kindergarten Clinic at Deane-Porter with over 55 children registered and a significant wait list – the gym is small and many parents wanted the 9am time slot. This demonstrates that there is great demand for programs for the younger residents. The first and second grade clinics moved to the RCDS gym, which is a fantastic space and can accommodate many more kids than DP. There are about 65 children in each the first and second grade clinics. A few coaches have expressed concern about the 10 foot basket heights and would prefer adjustable. Ms. Orsay indicated that next year she will look into putting the clinics at Forrestdale, which has 9' adjustable baskets, and moving the games to RCDS on Saturdays, if that gym is available to Rec.

The 7th/8th grade girls are playing in an inter-town league for the first time as there is only one team. So far feedback is positive on this change. In years past the 7th/8th grade girls played in open court with no scheduled games.

Ms. Orsay asked the Commissioners if they felt 3rd & 4th grades should be moved to full sided games next year if we can find space. Currently third and fourth grade participants play side to side using half the court. The consensus was not strong either way. Space will determine if this is even a possibility.

The Rec basketball season will run until March 1 and ends with the double examination March madness tournament for grades five through eight. The tournament winners will receive a champion t-shirt.

RFH Rowing - Ms. Orsay reported that RFH Rowing Winter Conditioning program was revamped this year. First, the location moved from the FH Youth Center to the new RFHRHS Fitness Center. RFH Rowing moved its 11 ergs there and also has access to the high school's 6 ergs. Each participant in the program is assigned his or her own erg, which is different from past years. This program is open to high school students as well as seventh and eighth graders. Two- and three-day sessions were offered, all of which are sold out with a wait list. Ms. Orsay has received positive feedback on this program and said it is much improved from last year.

In the spring, the RFH Rowing program will be sponsored by the high school, assuming that the parents can raise enough money to fund the program. The parents are currently conducting a car raffle and organizing a party in order to raise funds. It is estimated that \$55,000 needs to be raised for the spring program.

Travel Soccer - The fall season is over and most coaches have elected to do indoor winter training organized on their own.

Travel Basketball - The 6th-8th grade season ended in December and the 3rd-5th grade season will take place January through March. Mr. Cecil has taken over responsibility from Alex

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Shanley for coordinating the travel basketball program. Ms Orsay reports that Mr. Cecil is doing a great job and it has been a seamless transition.

For the 2014-2015 season, Ms. Orsay asked the Commission if we should try to arrange for two practices a week, possibly seeing if our RCDS has space. This will result in higher fees for gym space and increased fees for door monitors at both CBI and FD. It is unlikely enough space is available locally, but Ms. Orsay will investigate the possibility. Likely only 3rd-6th would avail themselves of an addition night, since 7th & 8th graders often also have school teams. In terms of other potential expenses, Mr. Cecil feels we can use the uniforms for at least another year.

Baseball and Softball - Registration is currently underway for spring sports. Open registration ends on January 31, after which a \$25 Late Fee will be applied to all registrations.

This year Rumson Rec baseball and softball is moving from EMSA to Little League. Little League will be 3rd grade through 10th grade (effectively 9U to 16U, as LL runs by birth date, not grade). Ms. Orsay announced that Rec is also changing the junior program. This year T-ball will be available for Kindergartners only, while first and second graders will play in a tee or coach-pitch inter- town league. Both softball and baseball are available starting in First grade (first and second grades will play together). Girls may play either baseball or softball at all ages. There have been numerous Little League Board meetings and they continue on a monthly basis. Ms. Orsay is not a member of the LL Board, but attends the meetings as an ex-officio member. Softball is also moving to Little League and is Orsay has a softball meeting on Thursday, January 16.

Travel Baseball - All of our Borough-sponsored travel baseball coaches, comprising 12U, 10U, 9U, and 8U teams, are supportive of the move to Little League and will encourage their players to participate. Players must participate in 75% of Little League games to be eligible for post-season play. There will only be one Rumson sponsored travel team her age group. 9U (Frank Lauria) and 10U (Steve Ferjentsik) tryouts were publicly announced and completed in early January and the teams are doing indoor winter training. 11U (Brad Sakale) and 8U (Todd Herman) will hold tryouts in early March and are also offering a winter training. Ms. Orsay was contacted by Saul Cruz of Fair Haven, who is interested in starting a 13U Rumson-Fair Haven travel team.

Girls Lacrosse - Girls lacrosse registration is also underway and due January 31. Each team in grades 3-8 will have have two or three time slots a week for practices and games. Ms. Popham will again run the clinic for first and second graders. Matt Cheslock and Sean Clifford are offering Tournament Teams for 5th/6th and 7th/8th grades, respectively. The latter will require a tryout, tentatively scheduled for March 2.

Committee Reports

Travel Basketball - Nothing additional to report.

Travel Soccer - Ms. Greener Will be assisting Mr. McGinty in coordinating travel soccer. Ms. Orsay nominated Randy Rosen to be the new coach of the 9U team, providing details of his prior

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Rumson Rec coaching experience. Previously this team had been coached by a professional trainer. Ms. Orsay notified the entire team the Commission would be selecting a new parent-coach and invited all interested parents to be under consideration and Mr. Rosen volunteered. Mr. Bavuso raised the motion to approve, Ms. Chandler seconded, and Mr. Rosen was approved unanimously.

A question was also raised as to whether the Rumson soccer club should consider opening fifth grade and sixth grade tryouts to Fair Haven residents as well as Rumson residents. This topic has been raised before and various concerns were cited, including the impact on the Peninsula program as well as revisiting the original mission of the Rumson Soccer Club. Is the mission to make travel soccer available to more Rumson residents, as was the original intention when the program was started, or should it now be a more competitive program designed as a feeder for Rumson-Fair Haven high school? It was agreed that more discussion was needed as well as input from the current coaches.

Parks - Mr. Dengler recommended aerating the fields in the spring. Mr. McGinty raised that that the motion be approved and Mr. Bavuso seconded it. The recommendation was unanimously approved.

Special Events

Ms. Orsay announced that the **baseball parade** will take place on Saturday, April 5 at 9 AM which is also opening day. She indicated she would like to jazz this parade up and make it a little bigger or at least a little longer. The commission was in favor. Ms. Orsay will pursue new ideas to enhance the parade, which appeals primarily to the primary school kids in Grades 3 & below.

Projects

Mr. Lembeck announced that he has been appointed to a committee to explore the possibility of constructing a boathouse at the RFH Rowing site. Funds for such a project would be privately raised.

Administrative

Ms. Orsay reported that at the Commission's recommendation she purchased the **Team Manager module** for the Community Pass online registration system. The system helps facilitate roster generation and was a significant time saver for basketball. It also allows parents to immediately look up who their coach is, reducing phone calls, emails and anxiety.

In early March Ms. Orsay will be going to the **New Jersey Recreation and Parks Association (NJRPA) Annual conference** for continuing education. It is a great opportunity for info exchange with peers. Specific topics covered this year will be summer camps and after school activities, recreation, newsletters, bullying, and how to get kids outdoors.

Treasurer's Report

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Ms. Orsay reported that in December Rumson Recreation received its annual contribution from the 2013 Community Appeal, which amounted to \$8252. In addition, Recreation received its annual \$10,000 appropriation from the Borough of Rumson.

Old Business

Ms. Orsay indicated that she had continued to work on **field facility fee schedule** for 2014. The difficulty is that there is no cookie-cutter solution, each town seems to do things a little differently. In addition Rumson has a variety of non-recreation users with different needs. Accommodating a fair fee schedule for all of these needs has proved challenging. Ms. Orsay plans to come with a firm recommendation for the February 2014 commission meeting.

New Business

Summer Camp Approval - Ms. Orsay ask for approval for the following camps:

Sourlis bball	Fallon Football	Pfister Chess	Marine Science
Shempy Bball	Tukis Girls Soccer	Mad Science	Toddler Music
Lippart Track	Juliano Volleyball	LEGO	Aloha SUP Kids
US Sports Tennis	US Sports Soccer / Multi Sports	USP Soccer	IncrediFlix Motion Animation

Ms. Chandler added Academy International Girls Lacrosse Camp to this list.

New this year: girls' soccer, volleyball, chess taught by a local high school teacher (to be confirmed), marine science camp, toddler music camp, and incredible flex motion animation camp.

In addition Ms. Orsay recommended that we raise the **Administrative Fee for Camps** from \$5 per person to \$10 per person, which in line with Fair Haven.

Mr. Dengler made a motion that the camps and fee be approved, Ms. Chandler seconded, and the camps and fee were approved unanimously.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, February 19, 7 PM** in the Charles S Callman courtroom.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Orsay
Director of Recreation